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travel from Moolakkatavu to Kunnalur have to walk about 4 furlongs in water and in view also of the fact that the Collector of Malabar has recommended that a footpath should be built from Moolakkatavu to Kunnalur, may I know whether the Government will take up the construction of the footpath? May I also know whether the Government have received any representations from the people that the scheme should be taken either under Local Development Works or under the schemes to be implemented under the Five-Year Plan? Will the Government be pleased to issue instructions that the construction of the footpath should be taken up either under the Local Development Works or under the Five-Year Plan?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM: Under the Local Development Works, 50 per cent contribution has to be found for the works. Since contribution is not forthcoming, it is not possible to take it up under Local Development Works. But as regards the suggestion of the hon. Member to take it up as a work to be implemented without any contribution from the people, a separate question may be put.

Preventive measures to fight against filaria in Malabar

* 301 *Q.*—SRI K. P. GOPALAN: Will the Hon. the Minister
11-50 a.m. for Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have any statistics regarding the persons who suffer from filaria in the towns of Baliapatam, Cannanore, Tellicherry, Kozhikode, Ponnani and Fort Cochin in Malabar; and

(*b*) the preventive measures proposed to be taken in the Second Five-Year Plan to fight against filaria in the abovementioned towns?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY: (*a*) Yes, Sir.

(*b*) In all these towns excepting Ponnani, anti-filarial schemes are worked by the local bodies concerned with one-third grants from State funds. Under the National Filaria Control Programme which is in the Second Five-Year Plan, these schemes will be supplemented by more comprehensive control measures.

SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR: Ponnani is the worst filaria-affected town, but it is seen from the answer that that town is outside the scope of any scheme. May I know the reason why no scheme is in operation there and whether the Government have taken any other measure for the prevention of filaria there?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY: The Panchayat Board at Ponnani did not accept to work the scheme on account of poor finances. Under the National Filaria Control Programme in the Second Five-Year Plan, it is proposed to have more comprehensive control measures.

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SRI K. P. GOPALAN : Have the Government got statistics about the number of persons suffering from filaria in the places mentioned by me in the question and when do the Government propose to start taking preventive measures in places other than Kozhikode?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY : I have got the figures relating to the places mentioned by the hon. Member about the micro filaria infection rate, the disease rate, the endemicity rate and all that. As I stated, the control schemes will be taken up during the Second Five-Year Plan period and it is for the Travancore-Cochin Government to take them up. The hon. Member may know that in Kozhikode we have already taken up the filaria control scheme and it is working very well.

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP : As a result of the working of the anti-filarial scheme in Kozhikode, water, especially water in the tank, has been polluted and there was wholesale destruction of fish in the tank. People are very much afraid of the scheme. Has this been brought to the notice of the Government and, if so, will they see that proper precautions are taken so that sources of drinking water-supply are not polluted?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY : I do not understand what the hon. Member means when he says that water is polluted. One of the anti-filarial measures is the spraying of gammaxene so that mosquitoes may not breed in the water. Anyhow I shall enquire into the matter.

SRI K. KUNHI MOHAMED SHAFEE : May I know whether the Ponnani Panchayat Board has made any request to the Government to grant financial aid to implement anti-filarial scheme in Ponnani town?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY : I have no information about the matter. If such a request has been made, sympathetic consideration will be given to it.

SRI P. K. GOPALAKRISHNAN : May I know whether the Government will give topmost priority to the provision of protected water-supply in the filaria-affected areas?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY : Protected water-supply schemes are taken up according to a particular order of priority that has been fixed.

SRI K. P. GOPALAN : I wanted an answer from the Hon. Minister as to whether the Government had got statistics to show the number of persons suffering from flalria in the places mentioned in my question. If there are statistics, they will enable the Government to understand how serious and widespread is the infection of filaria in those places. Since a good percentage of

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the people there are suffering from filaria, will the Government declare those places as filaria-affected places and take measures immediately to combat the disease?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY : Government are well aware of the high endemicity of this disease in those places, and control measures will be taken.

SRI C. KUNHIRAMA KURUP : Is the Hon. Minister aware that Quilandy and Badagara in Kurumbranad taluk are filaria-affected places and will the anti-filaria scheme be extended to those places also?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY : There are many places on the West Coast which are affected by filaria.

SRI K. MADHAVAN NAMBIAR : May I know whether the Government have received a copy of the resolution passed by the Irukkoor Panchayat Board urging the taking up of anti-filarial measures?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY : I can answer only questions which arise directly from the main question. I cannot give an answer off-hand to the question put by the hon. Member.

SRI V. R. KRISHNA AYYAR : In spite of the several pointed questions put by Mr. Gopalan, the Hon. Minister did not give figures nor did he say whether he had got the figures. May I know whether the Government are shying at declaring these places as filarial, because the Government servants there will have to be given some special allowance?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY : I have got the figures—

Name of place.	Year of survey.	Microfilaria infection rate.	Disease rate.	Endemicity rate.
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
		PER CENT.	PER CENT.	PER CENT.
Baliapatam	..	22·1	20·5	42·6
Cannanore Municipality.	..	16·2	..	..
Tellicherry	..	11.3	10·6	21·9
Kozikode Municipality ..	1947	7·0	..	..
Fort Cochin	1949	16·5	2·5	19·0
Ponnani Panchyat ..	1953	15·7	16·5	30·2

SRI P. K. GOPALAKRISHNAN : May I know whether any survey was conducted in Fort Cochin area and, if conducted, will the Hon. Minister be pleased to furnish the figures?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY : I just now read out the figures. I may tell the hon. Member that filaria is one of the unsolved problems in medicine. It is for the first time that filaria control scheme has been taken up and we shall watch the results of the experiment.

TRUTH ALONE TRIUMPHS